

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S.
RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1477, the nomination of Jessica G.L. Clarke, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

RICHARD J. DURBIN.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING
BRIGADIER GENERAL
CHARLES E. MCGEE AND STAFF
SERGEANT WAVERLY B. WOODSON, JR.**

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise today to honor two American heroes from our Greatest Generation: Brigadier General Charles E. McGee and Staff Sergeant Waverly B. Woodson, Jr.

McGee was a Tuskegee Airman who passed away peacefully in his home in Bethesda, MD, on January 16, 2021. He was 102. Woodson, an Army medic assigned to the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, landed on Omaha Beach on D-day and saved the lives of as many as 200 soldiers over the next 30 hours of continuous duty.

Both of these Marylanders fought with valor and distinction on behalf of a Nation that discriminated against them.

Brigadier General McGee's incandescent spirit, courage, and resolve led us to victory through some of our darkest times. He has left lasting impact on our country as a pilot, patriot, and civil rights advocate. He was born on December 7, 1919, in Cleveland, OH. His mother died soon after. His father, who was a minister, teacher, and social worker, moved the family frequently during McGee's childhood in search of work opportunities that were not easy to come by. Despite this adversity, McGee graduated from high school in Chicago in 1938 and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, CCC.

McGee used the money he made in the CCC to help pay for college, attending the University of Illinois as an ROTC student.

When we look at the extraordinary life of Charles McGee, one thing is ex-

plicitly clear: No matter how dangerous or difficult the call, if his country needed him, he always answered. This inspiring pattern of behavior started during his sophomore year in college when, on McGee's 22nd birthday, Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor. McGee began searching for a way to serve in the war. After he heard that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had authorized a unit of Black soldiers to train as pilots in the Army Air Corps, he applied and to start flight training at the Tuskegee Army Field in Alabama and was accepted.

Charles McGee battled racial discrimination but completed flight school as 1 of only 1,000 pilots, earning his spot as a Tuskegee Airman in the first-of-its-kind, all-Black 332nd Fighter group. In 1944, just a year after graduating, he deployed to Italy as a fighter pilot in World War II. He moved up the ranks quickly, from lieutenant to captain. McGee's squadron was responsible for escorting heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force across Europe and for target-of-opportunity missions. McGee flew 136 missions across Europe. Our victory in World War II, however, was not the end of McGee's service. He remained in the Army Corps and the Air Force for another 30 years, flying in both the Korean and the Vietnam wars. He tallied a record of 409 aerial fighter combat missions over the course of three wars. In 2020, McGee received an honorary promotion to brigadier general.

While there are few individuals living or dead who have had careers as successful or significant as Charles McGee's, what made him so remarkable was his undying positive attitude and kind nature, even in the most trying situations. As a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, he was constantly subject to racial discrimination, both in the military and back home where Jim Crow Laws prevailed. In an essay McGee penned for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, he wrote, "The prevailing opinion was that blacks did not possess the intelligence or courage to be military pilots. One general even said, 'The Negro type has not the proper reflexes to make a first-rate fighter pilot.' The Tuskegee Airmen certainly proved men like him wrong."

Until the day he passed away, Charles McGee educated others about the Black experience during this time and spoke of the "equality of opportunity" that he and the Tuskegee Airmen valiantly fought to achieve.

I am humbled and proud to call Charles McGee a fellow Marylander. His daughters Charlene McGee Smith and Yvonne McGee, 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild survive him. His legacy is intertwined with our Nation's legacy. He is a true American hero.

Waverly Bernard Woodson, Jr., is another true American hero. He was born on August 3, 1922, in Philadelphia and attended Lincoln University in Oxford, Pa, where he was a pre-med student.

McGee enlisted in the Army 8 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He joined the anti-aircraft artillery Officer Candidate School after scoring highly on a test, where he was one of only two Black Americans. He learned, however, that he could not become an officer because of his race. He trained as a combat medic at Camp Tyson in Paris, TN, where he experienced segregation and discrimination. He was assigned to the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, reaching the rank of corporal by the time Operation Overlord commenced.

On D-day, the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion was the only African-American battalion to participate. While Corporal Woodson was coming ashore at Omaha Beach, his landing craft tank—LCT—hit a naval mine and then was hit by an "eighty-eight" shell. Woodson suffered shrapnel injuries to his groin, inner thigh, and back. Once he reached shore and received treatment for his wounds, he set up a first-aid station and began treating other wounded soldiers. He worked continuously from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the following day, setting fractured limbs, removing bullets, amputating a foot, dispensing plasma, and reviving three men who nearly drowned while exiting their LCT; Woodson provided artificial respiration to the three men, reviving them.

Woodson's commanding officer recommended him for a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions, but the office of General John C. H. Lee determined that Woodson's actions warranted the greater honor of a Medal of Honor. U.S. Department of War special assistant to the director Philleo Nash proposed that President Franklin D. Roosevelt should give Woodson the award personally. Woodson ultimately received a Bronze Star Medal and a Purple Heart. The Philadelphia Tribune wrote, "The feeling is prevalent among Negroes that had Woodson been of another race the highest honor would have been granted him."

After World War II ended, Woodson hoped to study medicine, but was unable to find a medical school that would admit him as a Black American.

He returned to Lincoln University and graduated with a degree in biology in 1950. Woodson served in the Korean war, initially training combat medics before running an Army morgue. He served in the United Kingdom, France, and the Asia-Pacific. Within the United States, he also served at Fort George G. Meade, Valley Forge General Hospital, the Communicable Disease Center, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Woodson left the Army in 1952 with a final rank of staff sergeant. After leaving the Army, Woodson went on to work in the bacteriology department of the National Naval Medical Center. In 1959, he began working in the clinical pathology department of the National Institutes of Health until he retired in 1980.

Staff Sergeant Woodson married Joann Katharyne Snowden in 1952; the couple had two daughters and a son. He died in 2005 and was buried with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Last month, I joined Senator VAN HOLLEN and Representative TRONE in writing to Army Secretary Christine Wormuth to request that an award decision authority formally review and consider awarding the Medal of Honor to Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., posthumously. In June 2021, Commanding General of the First United States Army Thomas S. James, Jr., wrote in favor of Woodson receiving the Medal of Honor.

Woodson's widow Joann announced that if he were to receive the Medal of Honor posthumously, she would donate it to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

These stories are just two examples of Black-American soldiers who fought to defeat fascism during World War II while simultaneously enduring virulent racial discrimination as servicemen and back home in America as civilians.

After the Civil War and Reconstruction, powerful White officials in southern States sought to nullify the political outcome of the Civil War. They passed laws and instituted policies that enforced segregation.

We all know those laws: the Jim Crow laws, the Black Codes, the institutionalized segregation. The intent was to disenfranchise minority voters with poll taxes and literacy tests and voter intimidation.

Thanks to courageous leaders, we were able to reverse those laws. President Harry Truman integrated our military in 1948. Then, there was the landmark decision in 1954 of Brown v. Board of Education. We Marylanders are proud of Thurgood Marshall, a native son, with respect to the role that he played in arguing that case before the Supreme Court. In 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act and followed that historic legislation with the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and the Fair Housing Act in 1968.

Black Americans and other people of color have fought and died to preserve our freedom. As we celebrate Black History Month, if we want to honor Brigadier General Charles E. McGee and Staff Sergeant Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., and countless others like them, we need to continue to expand equal opportunity in America, and we can start by passing voting rights legislation, the need for which I have frequently spoken about on the Senate floor.

FLOOR VOTES

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, February 2, 2022.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: As you know, despite our collective efforts to encourage Members to vote on the Senate floor in a timely manner, votes are often left open well beyond the allotted time, frustrating a majority of Members from both sides of the aisle. Often, the outcome of the vote is not in doubt.

With this in mind and in order to expedite floor votes, we are instructing the Presiding Officer to close any vote in which: (a) one of the signatories below is the last remaining vote; and (b) the Member's vote would not change the outcome. However, on any particular vote, if a signatory requests that the vote be held open, they may do so by providing notice to their Cloakroom.

Sincerely,

Thom Tillis, Angus S. King, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Patrick J. Leahy, Kyrsten Sinema, Jon Tester, Ron Johnson, Amy Klobuchar, Jon Ossoff, John Barrasso, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Rick Scott.

Mark R. Warner, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Rob Portman, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Joni Ernst, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Crapo, Bill Hagerty, Richard Burr, Dan Sullivan, Debbie Stabenow, Roger Marshall, Jerry Moran, James E. Risch, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Kaine.

Lisa Murkowski, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Ben Sasse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Roger F. Wicker, Todd Young, John Boozman, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, Martin Heinrich, Robert Menendez.

Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Braun, Jeanne Shaheen, Deb Fischer, John Kennedy, Marco Rubio, Mitt Romney, Joe Manchin, III, Sherrod Brown, Bill Cassidy, John Cornyn, John Thune, Mark Kelly, Cory A. Booker, Richard Blumenthal, Brian Schatz.

Patrick J. Toomey, Lindsey Graham, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Gary C. Peters, Jeff Merkley, Rand Paul, Bernard Sanders, James M. Inhofe, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Kevin Cramer, Marsha Blackburn, Thomas R. Carper, Ron Wyden, Dianne Feinstein.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING CRUISE CUSTOMS

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the small business, Cruise Customs of Shepherdsville, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

It is not every week that I have the privilege of honoring a veteran-owned small business, but when I do, it is with profound respect and gratitude not only for this Kentucky entrepreneur,

but for our men and women in uniform. Cruise Customs was started by Chris Cruise, a veteran paratrooper who served in the 82nd Airborne Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After serving his country, like many veterans, Chris Cruise returned to the U.S. carrying with him the traumas of war. Woodworking became a sort of therapy for him, and he combined that passion for working with his hands with his deeply rooted patriotism and founded Cruise Customs in 2017.

Cruise Customs not only honors the great Nation that we live in, it also pays tribute to the wonderful State of Kentucky. The idea behind his business came from Chris and his wife Amber's desire to create something that honored both the Nation that he fought for and his wife's native State. The final product was a large American flag constructed from the wood used in old Kentucky bourbon barrels. While bourbon-barrel flags continue to be their most popular item, the business has expanded their scope of products offered. The Cruises' patriotic mission has remained at the heart of their business throughout its steady growth, as they broadened their service to the veteran community and to their local area when Cruise Customs' unique craftsmanship gained national recognition.

The whole Cruise Customs team use their dedication for service as inspiration for designing new products. These days, one can buy Chris' signature bourbon-barrel flag not only in a variety of sizes, one can also find various flags with a different colored stripe running through the center of the flag. The colors symbolize the business' support for various causes: blue, in honor of our Nation's police officers; red, to show their support for our Nation's fire fighters; pink, to spread breast cancer awareness and to champion its survivors. While these limited edition pieces stand out against their array of merchandise, the America "One Heartbeat" flag is perhaps their most impactful creation.

Their America "One Heartbeat" flag, a limited edition piece displaying the EKG sign of a heartbeat down the center stripe, was designed by Chris and Amber Cruise during the early days of the pandemic. Always wanting to give back to their community, Cruise Customs donated all proceeds from the sale of their America "One Heartbeat" flags to the medical frontline heroes at Norton Healthcare and U of L Health in Louisville. This noble idea quickly gained national attention, which allowed Cruise Customs to sell over 4,500 of these flags and donate over \$70,000 to their local medical community.

Cruise Customs' dedication to their community has not gone unnoticed. Last year, Chris Cruise was named one of Louisville Business First's Business Impact Award Nominees. Chris and Amber Cruise have also broadened their venture by opening and co-directing Kentucky's first local chapter of USA Cares, a nonprofit dedicated